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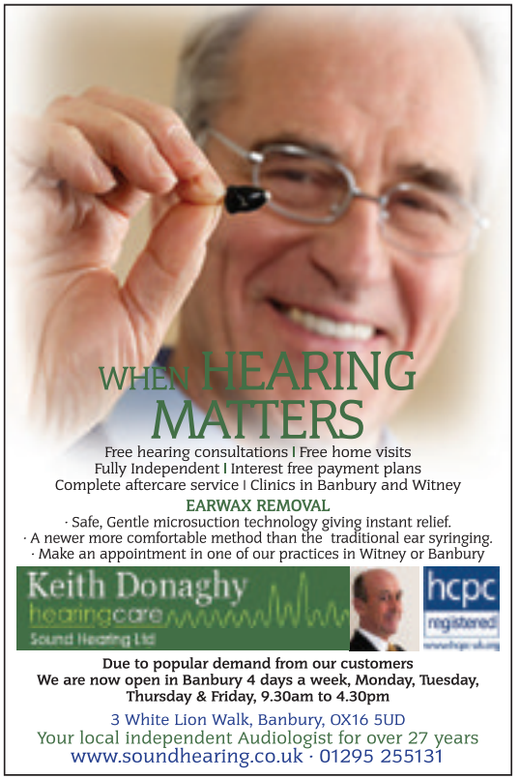

THE WORLD-famous Band of the Irish Guards, kitted out in their bright red ceremonial uniforms, graced Banbury with their presence on Saturday, to mark Armed Forces Day.

About 300 current and ex-service personnel, as well as cadet groups, joined the Irish Guards – whose main task is looking after the Queen – to parade from High Street to Horsefair.

It was one of Oxfordshire's most prominent displays and culminated in a granting of the Freedom of Banbury to the town-based 142 Vehicle Squadron.

Full report and pictures, pages 4&5

Colleagues shine out from the brass of this instrument

Businesses urge action over town and M40 traffic chaos

PLEA TO GET RELIEF ROAD

BUSINESSES have united in a call for measures to reduce traffic congestion through Banbury and on the M40.

A survey of about 85 local businesses was conducted this month by the Banbury and District Chamber of Commerce on congestion, how it affected business and the possible solutions.

Of these, 85 per cent said they believed a new relief road from the M40 was the answer, along with better public transport and more cycle lanes.

Business owners also suggested that new housing and the development of retail parks would lead to further congestion if a relief road was not built.

The chairman of Banbury Chamber of Commerce, Richard Hunter, said: "The vast majority of our members were concerned that the town is often gridlocked.

"Traffic comes to a standstill not only at peak commuting times, but also when there is an accident on the motorway. Obviously, this is bad for business."

Adam Hussain, an employee at Castle Cars at Banbury Rail Station, said: "I think a relief road south of the M40 Junction 11 is a really good idea.

"It gets so busy around there, particularly around 5pm and so it would make our lives, as a taxi company, a lot easier.

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

"We would certainly have fewer complaints from our customers, so I fully support it."

In addition, 68 per cent of participants said their staff found it difficult to get to and from work.

Martin Phillips, director of Swan Foundry in Swan Close Road, said: "I think we missed a trick in only having one junction on the M40 for Banbury. I would be in complete agreement that there needs to be a major scheme.

"We moved our hours schedule, partly so it became less of a problem. Our workforce get into work at around 7am in the morning and leave at 4pm to avoid congestion."

A key aim of the Banbury area strategy within the county-wide Local Transport Plan is to increase the use of buses and cycles to reduce traffic problems.

The plan also states: "A link road east of Junction 11 is a potential option and would provide a strategic solution, helping mitigate the impact of traffic travelling to/from Banbury."

A spokesman for Cherwell District Council said: "Last Thursday, Oxfordshire County Council, which is the lead authority for transport, gave a very detailed presentation on this subject to the Chamber of Commerce which outlined its plans for the future.

"They are working very closely around the growth proposals outlined within Cherwell's submitted local plan to ensure effective transport solutions.

"The county council is very committed to delivering a robust transport plan not just for Banbury, but the entire district and is looking at the proposed scale of growth very carefully.

"This is a long-term project that will need careful planning and Oxfordshire County Council is in the process of undertaking the relevant assessments to ensure the future growth and transport proposals fully align."

Stand out from the crowd!

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Printed and published by Newsquest Oxfordshire, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ,
Tel: 01865 425362. Newspaper Sales Department 01865 425282. Direct Delivery 0800 028 4592.

Market improvements considered after survey

Councillors quiz public in effort to restore a thriving and bustling centre of town

By Sophie Mogridge
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BANBURY Market has "deteriorated" since its relaunch by Cherwell District Council, according to the results of a Labour-led survey.

Market users were questioned both online and face-to-face by Labour councillors Sean Woodcock and Steve Kilsby, with comments being posted on the Banbury Streetlife website.

Councillor Woodcock said: "People want a thriving, bustling town centre market but clearly think that it needs a lot more effort and commitment from the council."

Labour member Mary Evans Young initiated the online discussion on Streetlife after the council's marker operator, EG Skett & Co, took over.

She said: "I have never seen such local interest generated in an online discussion before."

She said suggestions for improvement included organisers talking more to local producers, lower rents and incentive schemes for loyal customers and traders.

Other suggestions were merging the Charter Market with the continental markets and farmers' market and that a large once-a-month market could be held.

One online comment stated: "Banbury is a beautiful town steeped in history. It should have a bustling market to go with it."

Fruit and vegetable seller Richard White, 53, has been going to the Banbury Market for 20 years and he is hoping for the introduction of an incentive scheme for both visitors and traders.

He said: "In Bedford Market, if you don't miss any weeks they give you a couple of weeks rent-free per year, which is something Banbury could do and perhaps a loyalty scheme like a town council card for customers."

When asked about whether he would prefer weekly or monthly markets, he said: "I don't think a once-a-month market would help, especially for traders with regular produce.

"The cattle market used to bring farmers into town and that helped but there's no one cause of the problem and EG Skett & Co are trying."

EG Skett has responded by stating it might consider incentives but had ruled out going monthly rather than bi-weekly.

Banbury Market on its first day of trading under EG Skett & Co in 2010

Three injured by kidnapper gang

A GANG in Banbury kidnapped one man and assaulted two others.

Thames Valley Police reported that a 23-year-old man and a 26-year-old man were approached by a gang of four in Park Road at about 10.25pm on Tuesday last week. The 23-year-old was forced into a nearby house and assaulted, along with a 21-year-old woman who was already inside the building. Officers said the gang also demanded money.

The 26-year-old man was forced into a white BMW car and driven away. The driver stopped the vehicle in Queens Road and ran off.

Police have said they are looking for four suspects. All had dark skin and wore dark clothing. Their faces were covered.

Three mobile phones – a blue Samsung, a black Samsung GT and a Nokia 6280 – were taken, together with £70.

The three victims were left with cuts and bruises, but did not have to go to hospital.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Mark Personius, based at Banbury, said extra patrols and house enquiries were ongoing.

Det Con Personius said: "I would like to reassure the community that we are carrying out a thorough investigation into this serious incident. We are undertaking extra patrols in the area and house-to-house enquiries are ongoing.

"I would like to thank local residents for their patience while we continue our investigation."

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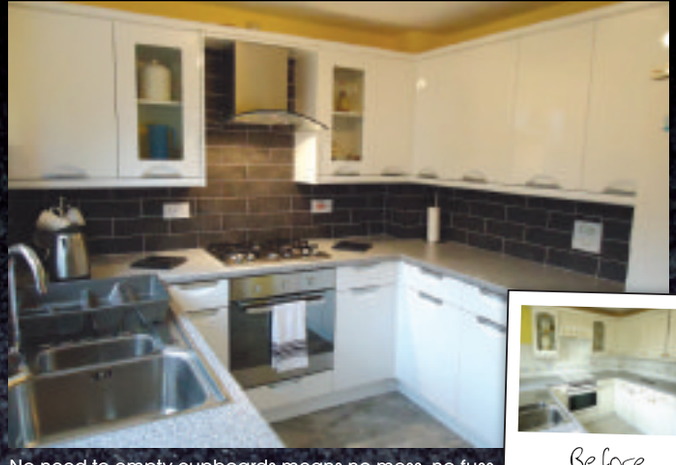

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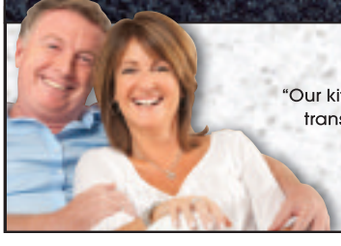

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Award honour for those dedicated to community

Hard work of individuals and organisations celebrated at the inaugural ceremony

THEY have been hailed as the "dedicated people who help put Cherwell on the map" and now their community-minded dedication has been acknowledged.

The Cherwell Community Award, hosted by Sanctuary Housing, sang the praises of seven individuals and organisations at its inaugural ceremony last week.

Among the winners – for Most Innovative Community Project Award – was the OYAP Trust based in Bicester, which works with young people across Oxfordshire.

The general manager at the OYAP Trust, Amby Hitchcox, said: "The Sanctuary Cherwell Awards were a fantastic chance for some of our brilliant young people to be recognised for their community efforts and personal achievements.

"We at OYAP Trust are delighted to have won the Most Innovative Community Project award and we are sure this affirmation will help the charity and its participants go from strength to strength."

Nominations opened in April and 50 names or organisations were put forward.

The names were whittled down to seven, who were presented their awards by special guest Banbury Sound's breakfast radio presenter Kirsty Leahy.

Sanctuary Housing set up the awards after being involved with many community project and wanted to recognise some of the work of the people it met along the way.

Categories included Lifetime Community Achievement, Green Fingers, Sports Personality, Young Achievers, Volunteer of the Year, Partnership and Most Innovative Community Project.

Another winner was 20-year-old Billy Foster, from Banbury, in the Young Achievers Award category. He was commended by judges for his work with Nicodemus Trust, helping to raise thousands for the charity, which helps young people to transform their lives in Guatemala and in the UK.

He said: "The charity mentors young people and helps them if they have housing problems or mental health problems.

"I am also mentored by the trust. I became involved because I had a few problems with drink and drugs but I am completely free from that now and work full-time. They have helped me rebuild my life.

"That is when I came up with the fundraising bike ride, equivalent to cycling from Banbury to Guatemala. More than 60 people turned up and we estimate around £7,500 was raised."

The 20-year-old works in a Cafexpress but is looking to organise further fundraisers, such as canoeing from Oxford to London then cycle to Brighton. He is also looking to move into mentoring as a career.

A raffle was held at the ceremony raising more than £100 for the Katharine House Hospice, which provides palliative care for those suffering long-term illnesses.

The head of neighbourhood partnerships for Sanctuary Housing, Graham Nolan, said: "We are delighted with the success of these awards which recognise the importance of local people and groups who devote so much of time to making their neighbourhood a great place.

"I am sure these devoted volunteers and organisations will continue to put Cherwell on the map."

Members of OYAP Trust, based in Bicester, which was the winner of the Most Innovative Community Project Award

Emma Moore and Richard Howson, of OYAP's Young Musicians programme

Mental health

OXON: A health watchdog will report on proposals for a new service where people with mental health difficulties can support and counsel each other.

Healthwatch is set to discuss the idea with the Oxfordshire joint health overview and scrutiny committee at a meeting today.

It has been put forward by Iffley resident Alice Hicks, who suffers from bipolar disorder.

The 72-year-old wants to use her decades of experience of living with a mental illness to start a centre run by sufferers, for sufferers.

The meeting starts at 10am in County Hall in New Road, Oxford.

Building auction

BANBURY: The building that houses the Odeon cinema is due to be auctioned on July 9.

According to estate agency Acuitus, the cinema in Horse Fair will be unaffected by the sale.

Acuitus auctioneer Richard Auterac said: "We expect considerable interest in this lot. Investors are increasingly interested in leisure properties because they are let to good businesses on relatively long leases."

The guide price of the property is £1.9m. The building, which been let to the cinema firm until April 2032, also has three floors of self-contained offices.

Charity rocks

N OXON: Rockers are being invited to join a non-for-profit singing group near Bicester.

The Launton Village Rock Chorus, a spin-off from amateur dramatics group Launton Village Players, is looking to expand.

Gigs raise money for charities and singers rehearse most Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the parish hall, to perform rock songs with a live band. See facebook.com/LauntonVillageRockChorus

Doctor's new role

BANBURY: A former GP has been given the task of improving patient care.

Dr Shelley Hayles was appointed interim deputy clinical director for Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's North Locality.

She worked as a GP at the West Bar Surgery for 11 years from 2002 to 2013 and has been involved in commissioning health services for more than a decade.

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The Band of the Irish Guards came to play in the parade, which headed through the streets of Banbury for Armed Forces Day, followed by veterans and representatives of youth groups from the town on their way to the Freedom of Banbury celebration

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Appreciation for our forces

World-renowned military band leads town parade to celebrate armed forces

Sophie Mogridge
news@nqo.com

CIVILIANS and soldiers took to the streets of Banbury to honour sacrifices made by generations of soldiers, sailors and pilots for Armed Forces Day.

Thousands of people lined the streets in Banbury on Saturday as the Band of the Irish Guards led a parade down the high street where the Freedom of Banbury was conferred on the town's own Army Reserve 142 Vehicle Squadron.

Some 300 serving soldiers, volunteers, cadets and war veterans joined the parade.

Banbury Town Council leader and a former Irish Guardsman Kieron Mallon said: "This was a superb tribute to this country's armed forces.

"Banbury can be proud of what took place today and it was good to see so many people line the streets and show their support by applauding as the parade passed by."

The world-famous band, in bearskin hats and ceremonial red uniform, is part of the Household Division, whose main role is to guard the Queen.

Following the parade, the Freedom of Banbury was conferred on the town's own Army Reserve 142 Vehicle Squadron, which arrived in Banbury last year is based at the Territorial Army barracks, Oxford Road.

This was followed by the Trooping the Colour of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars.

Banbury's celebrations for Armed Forces Day are among the most notable in Oxfordshire. In Bicester, a joint military and civilian parade and armed forces information stalls were incorporated into the annual Bicester Carnival.

Roshelle Walford, who lives in the town, joined the parade with her sons Gabriel and Isaac who are members of Oxford Sport and Traditional Martial Arts.

She said: "We had an amazing time, it was really, really good fun."

And volunteers manned three low-key stalls in Witney High Street for the Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes and Brize Norton Military Wives choir.

Witney's event was organised for the second year by 25-year-old Liam Walker.

Mr Walker, who lives in Deer Park, Witney, decided to organise an Armed Forces Day event in Witney when he attended a repatriation ceremony in Carterton last year.

He said he was surprised to learn back then that his nearest events for the day were in Bicester, so took it upon himself to organise plans for Witney.

He said: "Growing up in Witney I was surrounded by it, we have the largest military base in the UK on our doorstep, and you'll be shopping in Sainsbury's and see people in uniform."

Five women from Brize Norton Military Wives Choir used the day to promote their next concert at the Stow Cotswold Festival this Friday.

Sue Soowamber, whose husband is Flying Officer Frank Soowamber, said: "Armed Forces Day is important because it is a chance to celebrate the forces and remember those who have fallen."

Veterans join the parade before Banbury-based 142 Vehicle Squadron were granted freedom of the town

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Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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MP tribute in Commons

NEW Banbury MP Victoria Prentis paid tribute to her predecessor in her first speech in the House of Commons.

The Conservative MP was returned to parliament at May's General Election, increasing the majority enjoyed by Sir Tony Baldry, who stepped down after 32 years of representing the constituency.

Mrs Prentis paid tribute to Sir Tony and spoke of her pride in the constituency.

She said she chose to delay her speech until late June, so she could get more time than the four minutes allocated to those who spoke earlier.

In her speech she said: "It is Sir Tony's loyalty, decency and sheer hard work that will make him so hard to follow. North Oxfordshire is a beautiful place to live.

"I am sure many members can picture our river valley, rolling hills and medieval churches encircled by villages.

"The vast majority of my constituents live in one of our two major thriving and substantial market towns, Banbury and Bicester. Business is booming.

"Thanks to the long-term economic plan and the impressive industry of my constituents, we have almost no unemployment.

"We excel at food production, often with agricultural roots; town and country balanced to provide the perfect setting."

Campaign about handling chicken

COOKS have been asked to take on a new challenge about handling chicken safely.

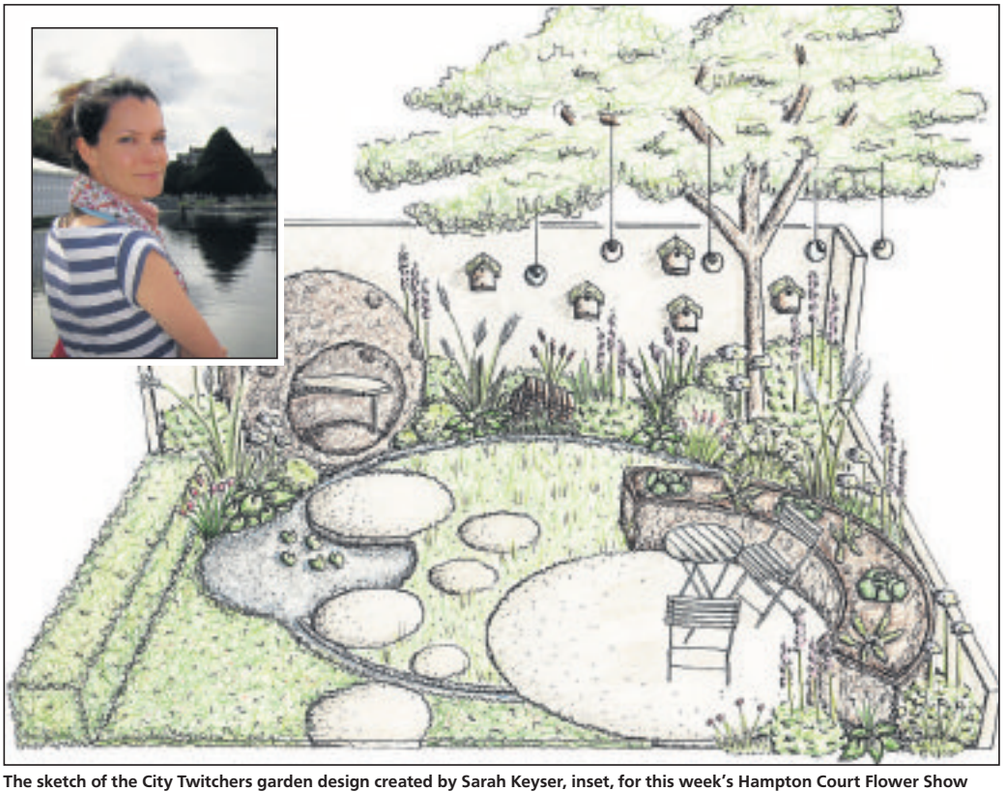
An Food Standards Agency (FSA) report showed around 280,000 cases of food poisoning were due to Campylobacter, a germ found in raw chicken which can kill or paralyse.

Cherwell District Council called on residents to take part in the FSA's Chicken Challenge, aimed to educate people on avoiding food poisoning.

Instructions include bagging and storing raw chicken from other food, washing anything that has been touched by raw chicken in soap and hot water and checking chicken is cooked properly by ensuring there is no pink meat.

Cherwell District Council deputy leader George Reynolds encouraged residents to take part.

Designer wins silver medal for City Twitchers garden at prestigious flower show



The sketch of the City Twitchers garden design created by Sarah Keyser, inset, for this week's Hampton Court Flower Show

A GARDEN designer from Banbury has won a coveted Silver Gilt medal at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show in London.

Sarah Keyser, who founded garden design consultants CouCou Design in Banbury in 2013, created her City Twitchers urban bird-watching garden for the show's 25th anniversary.

It balances rustic elements with structured modern shapes, and features a round, willow bird shelter crafted by sculptor Carole Beavis.

A camomile lawn also provides a space for insects to thrive.

The design was sponsored and built by landscaper Living Landscapes and will be on display in Hampton Court until Sunday.

Ms Keyser said: "The garden has been designed with a modern city couple in mind. They want their garden to be a relaxing and stylish sanctuary, away from the bustle of the city; and also a welcoming space for birds, bees, butterflies."

This is the first time Ms Keyser has had her work featured in a show.

The garden took two weeks to build.

Plea over man seen before alleged rape

Police want to track down man who was seen with 25-year-old victim shortly before she was found in church grounds

POLICE want to track down a man seen with a woman shortly before she was raped in Deddington.

Officers are looking for a man seen with the 25-year-old woman near St Peter and St Paul Church, Church Street, on the evening of Saturday, June 20, and into Sunday morning.

He was described as white, blonde, slim and about 6ft 1ins tall. He wore a white polo shirt.

Thames Valley Police were called at 12.20am on the Sunday. They did not say if the man was known to the woman, who was found by a member of the public in the churchyard.

Det Sgt Richard Pickering, of Banbury CID, said: "I would appeal to anyone who has any information about this incident to contact police immediately. I would particularly like to speak to anyone who recognises the description of the man who was seen with the victim.

"We are carrying out a thorough investigation. We have conducted CCTV enquiries, as well as extra patrols in the village."

Hundreds of revellers packed the Market Square for a rock concert marking the final night of the eight-day Deddington Festival on the Saturday. Less than an hour after the bands finished, the victim was found laying in the churchyard. The vicar, the Rev Annie Goldthorp said the village had been shocked by the vicious attack on the woman, believed to have been visiting for the concert.

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Creative schoolchildren brighten up the flower beds for annual planting competition in People's Park

Some of the Banbury schoolchildren who have put in lots of effort to make People's Park look lovely this year

FLOWER beds in People's Park are now looking their best for the summer after receiving some tender, loving care from creative schoolchildren.

About 400 youngsters from 12 Banbury primary schools planted flowers and shrubs with a farmyard theme around the park, in Warwick Road.

They also made centrepieces for the beds including scarecrows, sheep, pigs and chickens.

The children's countryside scenes were put together for Banbury Town Council's annual 'planting in the park' competition, which encourages young people to develop an interest in planting and horticulture, as part of Banbury in Bloom.

Two judges from the council, Alastair Milne Home and Diane Johnson, had a hard time choosing their favourites.

Mr Home said: "The number of pupils taking part this year is fantastic. Everyone I have spoken to has had a great day and they have been bubbling with enthusiasm from start to finish."

The children made scarecrows and a range of farm animals as decorations

Ms Johnson said: "It has been very difficult to choose a winner. All the flower beds and centrepieces are of a very high standard and I congratulate the schools for their imagination and their energy."

Winners in the 'Floral Display' category were Dashwood School, followed by St Leonard's and Bishop Loveday, and the 'Centrepiece' category was won by St Leonard's, ahead of Hillview and St John's.

Internet use on rise

The number of regular users in the county has risen by 22,000 in the first three months of the year

Luke Sproule
lsproule@nqo.com

THE number of regular internet users in Oxfordshire had risen by 22,000 in the first three months of this year, compared with two years ago.

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics showed 482,000 people had logged on at least once.

That was up 4.8 per cent on the first quarter of 2013, giving the county the fourth-highest percentage of regular users in the UK. Two years ago it ranked 23rd. In 2013, 87 per cent of people in the county regularly used the internet, but that now stands at 93.2 per cent.

Wantage MP Ed Vaizey, Minister of State for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, said: "If you work for a big company and commute to London, you might be able to work from home two days a week and that will save on transport costs and emissions.

"But you may also be able to shop at home instead of in London and that benefits all sorts of small businesses.

"I think older people who might feel isolated or unable to leave their homes can contact their family and friends by Skype or email."

Thousands of homes have been connected to faster internet access in recent years. In March, the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme reached a milestone of connecting 40,000 premises to superfast broadband.

The partnership between Oxfordshire County Council and BT aims to give 71,000 homes and businesses access by the end of 2017.

The Better Broadband for Oxfordshire Programme is backed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Mr Vaizey said: "We are hoping by the end of the year to have a clear idea about producing a programme to deliver broadband everywhere by 2019."

Kangaroo on the menu at new store launch event

A DATE has been set for the opening of a new Iceland supermarket at the Banbury Cross Retail Park, when kangaroo will be on the menu.

The store will open at 9am on Tuesday, July 28, and the first 50 customers will get a gift and the chance to win a freezer.

A total of 30 jobs will be created, from retail assistants to cleaners.

The unit, measuring 7,714 sq ft, will take the firm's Food Warehouse format, stocking bulk goods at better value prices.

As well as the usual Iceland range, it stocks speciality fish and meats such as sea bass, kangaroo, ostrich and buffalo.

On Saturday, August 1, Italian ice cream samples will be given away outside the store and food sampling will take place inside.

Store manager Helen Onens said: "We are delighted to be opening in Banbury Cross and boosting the local economy by creating 30 new jobs for people in the area.

"We will introduce exciting and luxury lines which tempt shoppers and caterers who may not have tried Iceland before. I'm excited to welcome our first customers and look forward to recruiting some of the best talent in town."

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Car fire chaos

CHERWELL: A car caught fire on the M40 northbound, partially blocking the motorway and causing tailbacks from Junction 10 and on to the A43.

Traffic reports said the fire happened at about 11.15am on Thursday last week, near to the Cherwell Valley services. There were no indications of anyone being hurt.

Christian youth

OXON: An event to improve the Church of England's links with young people will be held in the county for the first time in four years.

The Mend the Gap event is at Didcot Civic Centre on October 17. It aims to help churches re-engage with young people and bridge the generation gap. The church wants to use the event to look at ways of gathering volunteers, full-time workers and clergy and get them involved with making the church more relevant to children and teenagers.

To find out more, visit oxford.anglican.org

Estate profit

OXON: The organisation which owns the Banbury Gateway site, where work has started on the new £80m shopping park, has announced a record profit of £285m.

The Crown Estate, which manages property and land owned by the Queen, pumps all its profits back into the Treasury. The organisation also co-owns the £440m Westgate development in Oxford with Land Securities.

Chip pan fire

BANBURY: Crews dealt with a chip pan fire at a house in Beaumaris Close at 7.30pm on Tuesday of last week. The service said it was caused by an air fryer left on top of a hot cooker hob. Three fire engines attended, but it had been dealt with by the residents.

Players' 70th

BANBURY: Banbury Cross Players celebrated their 70th anniversary with a black tie event at the Wroxton House Hotel on Saturday. More than 70 members, including chairman Jem Turner celebrated the achievements of the club since it began in 1945. Photographs, programmes, press-cuttings and posters were on display for guests to look at before moving on to a quiz.

County faces an obesity crisis

Adult overweight or obese rates stand at 55 per cent for the whole of Oxfordshire, but is 64 per cent in Oxford itself

Luke Sproule
lsproule@nqo.com

AN OBESITY "epidemic" is looming for Oxfordshire with more than half of adults now classed as overweight or obese.

The annual report from the county's director of public health, Dr Jonathan McWilliam, showed 55 per cent of adults were classed as overweight or obese in 2014/15.

The report also said 17 per cent of children were overweight or obese – an increase of just under two percentage points from last year.

The figures are lower than the English averages, with adult obesity standing at 64 per cent and child obesity at 19 per cent.

In Oxford city, 21 per cent of children are overweight or obese, two per cent above the national average.

Dr McWilliam said: "Obesity is an epidemic which has not yet reached its peak.

"It is said that every epidemic eventually reaches its peak and then falls.

"That happened with smoking. Rates went up and up for decades and have now come down again.

"We may have turned the corner with drinking patterns as well, but with obesity, I do not think we have reached the top of the curve yet.

"There really is no silver bullet, no one solution.

"We all have a part to play. Every individual, every parent can take action."

The report recommended district councils also had their part to play. It suggested a focus on providing green spaces, leisure centres and play areas when looking at housing developments could help battle obesity.

It also said Oxfordshire County Council's health improvement board should continuously review its strategy to keep on top of the issue.

Dr McWilliam added: "All of our services are working well to combat obesity.

"By building cycle paths and walking routes, we can improve things.

"I am hoping we have reached a peak on childhood obesity."

An adult is defined as overweight or obese if their body mass index (BMI) is 25kg per metre squared or above (a BMI of 25).

This is worked out by dividing an adult's weight in kilograms by their height in metres and then dividing the answer by their height again.

A healthy BMI for adults is between 18.5 and 24.9. Children's BMI is calculated differently.

Dr McWilliam said informing young people was an important factor in tackling childhood obesity.

He said: "It is about children making their own choices.

"Gradually the tide starts to turn and we will see that.

"It is too early to say when it will go but my job is to raise awareness with people, parents and schools."

He added the role of school nurses had proved to be crucial in getting to grips with obesity in childhood.

In March 2014 a deal was signed by the county council, Oxford Health and the NHS Foundation Trust to ensure every secondary school in Oxfordshire would have its own full-time nurse.

Bicester man James Bond has lost 30 stone since 2014 and now weighs about 16 stone.

He said that authorities could still do more to help people in their battle with the bulge.

The 38-year-old said: "Health services should help more with healthy eating plans and menus.

"I did not get help from social services when I was losing weight.

"Losing weight is so important. I can do so much more now I have lost weight."

Villagers to vote on the future of where they live

VILLAGERS in Hook Norton will have the chance to vote on the future of its Neighbourhood Plan during a referendum.

Richard High of the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service announced earlier this year that the Neighbourhood Plan should be decided by referendum.

The plan, which was drafted by people living in Hook Norton, sets out to offer guidance for future developments until 2031.

It could be decided by referendum on September 3.

Aims of the document include the preservation of the village's character, keeping existing employment and helping people on low incomes by providing affordable housing.

Cherwell's lead member for planning, councillor Michael Gibbard, said the plan had been confirmed as "satisfactory."

If more than half of those voting are in favour, Cherwell must make the Neighbourhood Plan part of the district's development plan.

Student engineer team in fast lane

A SOAPBOX derby has been won by a team of engineering students from Banbury and Bicester College.

The group designed a race car for the Banbury and Bicester College's Gravity Car race at Cornbury Park in Charlbury on June 10.

With a little help from digital fabrication specialist KW Special Projects (KWSP), Brackley and Banbury-based 3D printer and material supplier Laser Lines, the students produced a winning racer.

Matt Watson, of the winning team, said: "It was fairly intense with lots of races to contend with and lots of adjustments being made to the racer to ensure we went as fast as we could.

"We have all learnt a lot from the team and this has helped us immensely with our college work, on race day and finally with winning overall best in the timed and head-to-head events."

Two pairs of aerodynamic wishbone covers were 3D-printed for the race car and took 17 hours to produce.

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7 Windows A Rated ANY SIZE	£4,186	£87.87	£5,272.20
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Speeding car

BANBURY: A car was seen being driven dangerously through the town centre.

Thames Valley Police said a grey Mitsubishi Lancer Evo was seen in Gatteridge Street at 8.20pm on June 18, driving along Upper Windsor Street, through traffic lights at Bridge Street and into Cherwell Street. It then went into Concorde Avenue and turned left on to Hennef Way and along the A423 towards Southam.

Police said the car was reported to be speeding and they have appealed for witnesses.

Drop-in session

BANBURY: A drop-in session for students to enhance their business skills will be held at the North Oxfordshire Academy today.

Driving Ambition – Making It Real will give students aged between 11 and 16 and sixth formers the chance to forge business contacts.

Business representatives will provide advice on tackling the business world after leaving education.

The event is from 6pm to 8pm. For information, see drivingambition.org.uk.

Camera stolen

BANBURY: Burglars stole cash, bank cards and cameras after getting into a house in Winchester Close, through an unlocked door, between 11pm on Sunday, June 21, and 6am the next day.

They took two canvas bags, a wallet containing an amount of cash, library cards, a driving licence, bank cards, a Canon camera and an Olympus camera.

James Guinivan, who is investigating the burglary for Thames Valley Police, appealed for people to get in touch if they had seen anything suspicious in the area.

The family were invited to the House of Lords by Lord Carey, president of the United Learning Trust, for afternoon tea

A trip to House of Lords for award-winning schoolboy

A PUPIL from Banbury is celebrating after winning special honours at the 'Best in Everyone' Primary School Awards.

Yousif Abdelaal-Wait won the award for Independent Learning and Resilience on June 19 having been nominated by his teachers at Hanwell Fields Community School.

The school's head Harry Wall said: "Everyone at Hanwell Fields is delighted for Yousif and we all congratulate him on this impressive achievement.

"Yousif is a fantastic, hard-working pupil.

"He always tries his best, is determined to challenge himself in everything he does and produces amazing work.

"His independence in his work is remarkable and he is always striving to achieve and extend his knowledge."

United Learning, a group of independent schools and academies which ran the competition, also organised a day out in London for Yousif and the other award winners.

The winners took a trip on the London Eye, a walk across Westminster Bridge and a tour of the Houses of Parliament with former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey before receiving their awards in the House of Lords.

Yousif said: "I am really proud I got the award.

"Meeting new people was fun and helped me to be less shy.

"It was really good and I felt overwhelmed with my award and going to the House of Lords.

"It was a great experience going to London and it taught me that being resilient leads to good things."

Pupils were nominated for awards including school ambassador, overall pupil of the year, outstanding achievement, sports pupil of the year and young heroes award.

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MP praises learning disability charity

Prentis says new group offers the community 'fantastic opportunities'

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

A NEW charity supporting people with learning disabilities has received praise from Victoria Prentis MP, who said it offered the community "fantastic opportunities".

Ms Prentis got the chance to look around the newest branch of charity Style Acre at its ribbon-cutting ceremony.

She said: "What a fantastic facility to have right in the middle of Banbury.

"This will offer so many opportunities to young people and it has the potential to help many many more people in the coming years."

The centre was opened by vice patron and television presenter John Craven on Friday, June 12.

It provides day activities, supported living, work development and community involvement for adults with learning difficulties across Oxfordshire.

Ms Prentis said: "I know the centre is working closely with local specialist schools and the council to offer ongoing support for young people, many of whom will have just left school.

"You can get work experience at the centre too, which is brilliant."

Style Acre will also include upstairs apartments, which Ms Prentis said were "amazing."

She added: "They offered a combination of high specification, good quality accommodation and appropriate design to meet the needs of those who might use a wheelchair or require that extra bit of support around the home. I am excited to see what Style Acre Banbury will deliver in future."

Ms Prentis also enjoyed a welcoming visit to the town's Dementia Activity Cafe.

In line with Dementia Day, she learned of the benefits of the cafe, in the White Lion Walk shopping area, by engaging with dementia sufferers and employees.

The mother-of-two, who was sworn in at Parliament on May 20, was also on hand to watch a singing session organised by AgeUK Oxfordshire.

Ms Prentis, who succeeded Sir Tom Baldry as Banbury MP, said she was touched by the warm welcome she had received.

She added: "I was happy to spend time at the café, and the environment was so welcoming. I had the chance to meet people who suffer from dementia, but also their family, friends and carers who support them on a daily basis. Our GPs are working hard on identifying the signs of dementia so we can diagnose sooner.

"I am grateful too to Oxfordshire social care and NHS services, as well as private homes and carers, who are offering vital support in our communities. We must do all we can and with everyone working together I am sure we will make great strides to ensure we provide the best support to those who are diagnosed and their families."

Town Mayor's Sunday & Hobby Horse Fun Day

Sunday ~ 5th July 2015

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1pm – Official Opening ~ People's Park

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Afternoon Tea ~ Radio Horton ~ Face painting & balloon modelling

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Football stars of future can develop skills

CHILDREN will get the chance to harness their footballing skills with Oxford United FC players and coaches this summer.

Cherwell District Council announced on Monday it had joined with the football club to provide the football camps in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

Children aged between five and 13 will get the chance learn new skills with qualified coaches and will be treated to guest appearances from Oxford United players.

Cherwell District Council's deputy leader and councillor George Reynolds said any parents who book their children in for a week at a time will receive a discount as well as a free family ticket to watch an Oxford United match.

He added: "Children can spend the summer playing football among their peers and learn handy hints and tips from qualified coaches."

Camps will begin at Cooper School in Bicester, from July 20 to 24, before moving on to North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury between July 27 and 31.

Further camps will be held at the Kidlington Leisure Centre from August 3 to 7, then Bicester from August 10 to August 14.

There will be a second visit to North Oxfordshire Academy from August 17 to 21, ahead of one at Kidlington Leisure Centre between August 24 and 28.

For information on the camp, which includes girl-only sessions in Banbury from August 17 to 21 and Kidlington from August 24 to 28, call 01295 221720.

Businesses talk shop with two councils

BUSINESSES gathered in Banbury this month to tackle problems over trade with the council.

Cherwell District Council ran the workshop, called Open for Business, to raise the current issues faced by businesses in the town.

Firms on the day were able to tell the council about their experiences of different regulation procedures and talk about finding new ways to improve support for companies.

Regulators from Cherwell and Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards were on hand to discuss what could be done.

Cherwell District Council's lead member for public protection, councillor Tony Ilott, said the interests of local business would be at the forefront of the council's priorities.

Mr Ilott added: "Delivering high-quality regulatory services that support the growth of the local economy is a priority for Cherwell District Council.

"We want to ensure the right conditions for business growth are in place so this event examined ways in which we can reduce regulatory barriers.

"It was an excellent opportunity to see how the regulatory burden can be reduced but still balanced with the need to protect the public.

"We want to know how things could be done differently to improve things and this is a chance to examine how that could be done."

Children's services 'under huge pressure'

Abuse scandals and budget cuts have created a perfect storm with demand on department high, says council boss

A prison van takes convicted men from Operation Bullfinch from their trial at the Old Bailey off to prison for a combined total of more than 95 years

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

THE MAN in charge of Oxfordshire's children's services has warned a surge in demand after Operation Bullfinch and other child abuse scandals is putting huge pressure on his department.

Jim Leivers, director of children's services at the county council, said this and a reduction in money from the Government to tackle the issue was leading to a "perfect storm".

He added a £2.5 million overspend was forecasted for the end of this financial year, due to the continued increase in the number of children coming into care.

The local authority has about 640 children being closely monitored by social workers though so-called child protection plans, more than ever before.

That number has more than doubled in the past five years.

At any one time, Mr Leivers said there were about 2,500 "open cases" dealt with by children's services. But he said there were concerns the caseloads of social workers were rising, placing staff under extra strain.

Mr Leivers said: "We expected to see a surge when we published the [Bullfinch] serious case review, but this ongoing rise in numbers is not just from that.

"We are performing well in all the things we need to, but what we are worried about is we aim for social workers to each have caseloads that are in the mid-teens, when now they are in the early 20s."

A child is placed in a child protection plan if the county council believes they are at risk of harm.

Children can also be placed in a "child in need plan" if they need extra support but are not at risk of harm.

Mr Leivers said the rise in child protection plans was "complex" and part of a national trend, linked to higher public awareness of abuse cases.

It follows Operation Bullfinch in Oxford, the Rotherham child sex abuse scandal and the revelations about Jimmy Savile that emerged after his death in 2011.

Katharine Thompson, of Oxford children's charity Viva, said the rise in child protection cases was also due to reductions to welfare since 2010.

She said: "We've seen a rise in household poverty and family breakdowns and that has an effect on children, contributing to the pressure on social care."

Former social worker Mary Braybrooke, of Clifton Hampden, said more prevention work was needed to help families and children before crises.

The 80-year-old added: "A lot of social workers feel terribly pressured and demoralised at the moment and it makes their job more difficult. It is not just helping the clients, but also the bureaucracy which has changed a lot in the last 20 years. The emphasis needs to be on prevention."

Services supporting children and families – such as children's centres and early intervention hubs – are facing budget reductions and major re-structures. As part of efforts to find £20m of extra savings, the council agreed to cut £3.66m from the children, education and families budget.

That was on top of £264m in savings it had to find by 2018, due to Government funding cuts.

Mr Leivers told a watchdog committee of councillors: "[The rise in demand] is something that is continuing to happen against reductions in services.

"It is creating a perfect storm for this directorate and I would not want to under-state the seriousness of the situation."

He warned that as more government cuts were announced, it was likely children's services would have to be "targeted" at the most vulnerable.

This could result in working more with community groups and charities to offer services traditionally run by the council, Mr Leivers said.

He added: "We have to think about what to do when we have statutory requirements to intervene but do not have the resources."

Ms Thompson said Viva was urging churches and faith communities to take a greater role in supporting families.

She added: "Groups like ours need to take on some of the roles that the welfare state has in the past traditionally had."

Pub has designs on a top industry award for keeping its character

A PUB near Banbury has been handed a design award by the Campaign for Real Ale.

The Castle, at Edgehill, won both a refurbishment and conservation award for work carried out to make it more spacious, while retaining character.

The building opened in the 1740s and was designed by architect Sanderson Miller.

It sits on the site where King Charles I's standard bearer planted the royal arms before the first battle of the English Civil War in 1642.

The managing director of Hook Norton Brewery, James Clarke, said: "We are delighted with the result and, of course, delighted to receive not one but two prestigious awards, recognising the investment we have made. The designers and builders interpreted the brief and executed it brilliantly."

Judge Sean Murphy said: "The pub design awards celebrate the architects, designers and pub owners who have the bravery and vision to go above and beyond when restoring, conserving or designing pub buildings. From the preservation of ornate Victorian features in Leeds, to the sensitive restoration of pub in a gothic-style castle in Oxfordshire."

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Pensioners fleeced by 'sophisticated' conmen

Police warn as techniques used to grab vulnerable people's money evolve

David Rivers & Matt Oliver
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VULNERABLE pensioners across Oxfordshire are being conned out of thousands of pounds by doorstep criminals.

Investigators have warned techniques being used are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

In one case, a man in his 80s was groomed into thinking the thief was his friend before being conned out of £420,000.

More than £1.8 million was taken from victims in the last three years by criminals defined as rogue traders or seeking money by deception. But more than £513,000 was paid by victims in the last year, compared with £448,000 in 2012/13.

Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team says organised gangs are masquerading as legitimate businesses, offering to install roofing, driveways and solar panels. The majority of victims are aged over 61.

Richard Webb, of trading standards, said: "It starts with small favours and helping around the house, but can progress into much bigger things.

"In this case, the victim – an gentleman in his 80s – was convinced to lend a man a lot of money to set up a farm for him and his family in Hampshire."

Data showed that in five years, the majority of doorstep crime was rural. Almost 1,700 complaints were from areas of Oxfordshire outside of Oxford, compared with 437 in the city.

Jane Thomas, aged 72, from Wallingford, fell victim to doorstep crime in 2011 when builders Trevor Bateman and David Merriman asked to do some gardening work.

This soon turned into bathroom repairs and she was left with a £6,000 bill – despite the work being unfinished.

Bateman, of Oakham Close, Swindon, was jailed for four years and Merriman, of Clifton, Nottinghamshire, for three-and-a-half years.

Rachelle Kennedy, a spokeswoman for Age UK Oxfordshire, said: "It is vitally important to ensure that people have the right information and advice and they feel equipped to challenge and report a potential scam."

The organisation is calling on the Government to set up a national scams task force.

Jane Thomas's builders demanded cash but left her bathroom unfinished

Ordination of 25 new clergy

FORMER teachers, a sheep expert and a nurse are among those to be ordained as Deacons with the Oxford Diocese.

Twenty-five new clergy for Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire are to be ordained in three services at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on Saturday, July 4, at 10am, 2pm, and 6pm.

Sheila Crowther, from Osney Benefice, Daniel Hames from St Aldate's Church, and Jarred Mercer, from St Mary Magdalen church in Oxford, are all being ordained at 2pm.

Mum-of-three Ms Crowther said: "Regular visits to Holy Island and the Holy Land are a continuing source of inspiration."

Nine others from Oxfordshire to be ordained are: David Bendor-Samuel, who covers Beckley, Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley, and Stanton St John, Erika Biscoe for Bicester Benefice, Carol Hill of Emmanuel Church in Bicester, Jennifer Morton for Dorchester, Richard Power of St Paul's in Banbury, Jonathan Roberts for Dorchester, Susan Spankie for Long Hanborough, Alice Venning for Blenheim, and Robert Wainwright for Burford.

Club ownership

OWNERSHIP of Banbury United FC has been transferred to a Community Benefit Society. Following meetings between the club's board of directors and the Supporter Club, an official launch of the new ownership will take place at the Spencer Stadium clubhouse on Thursday at 7.30pm.

Supporters will own their club, and an elected committee will make decisions.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

TODAY (WEDNESDAY)

A History of Architecture in 3.5 Buildings: Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford. Walking tour. artsfestivaloxford.org. 5pm. £12/£2. 01865 305305.

THURSDAY

Oxford Poets Walking Tour: St John's College, St Giles, Oxford. Readings of Oxford Poets from St John's to Merton College with Alastair Lack. See artsfestivaloxford.org. 6pm. £15/£2. 01865 305305.

Ramblers walk: Village Hall, Stanton St John. 5-mile walk with a pub stop. Unsuitable for dogs. 6pm. 01865 358905.

FRIDAY

Alice's Pictures, Parks, & Pleasure Walk: Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford. Two miles, two-and-a-half hours, in the footsteps of Lewis Carroll, with historian Mark J Davies. Starting at Town Hall to see Alice memorabilia, past Christ Church and less visited places. Walk past Oxford University Press, where first edition was printed, and ends at St Barnabas' Church. 2pm. £6, oxfordwaterwalks.eventbrite.co.uk 01865 798254.

Summer Party: Witney community barbecue, ice cream, activity stalls, bar, mini disco. No dogs allowed. 3.30pm. Free entry. 07753 126619.

SATURDAY

Alice's Day: The Story Museum, Pembroke Street, Oxford. Marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* with a day of activities around the city.

📖 **Mad Hatter's tea party:** The Story Museum will let you meet characters, get your face painted, play nonsense games. Watch out for 150 Alices in costume, listen to storytellers and finish at The Perch in Binsey (site of the Treacle Well) with a Mad Hatter's cocktail party. From 9am. Free. 01865 790050.

📖 **Alice's Day Pilgimage Walk:** Alice's Shop, St Aldate's. See Friday walk for route and leader details. Places limited to 20. 4pm. £6. Call 0186 798254 or see oxfordwaterwalks.eventbrite.co.uk

📖 **Green Alice's Day Picnic:** University of Oxford Botanic Garden, Rose Lane. Music from Allsorts and Kismet, games and activities led by the Mad Hatter. Eco champions the Oxfordshire Master Composters, Abingdon Hydro and Oxford Moth Project. botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/family-friendly-events-garden. 1pm. Adults £4.95, children free. 01865 286690.

Botley School Summer Fete: Elms Road. Bouncy castle, soak the teacher, stalls, food and drink, dancing exhibition. Noon, 07810 485679.

Open Gardens: Milestone Road, Carterton. Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-6pm. Start at any participating garden. No ticket required. Donation to Save the Children Fund. Maps available from 20 Milestone Road.

Ewelme Church Fete: Ewelme Manor Gardens, The Street. Stalls with books, clothes, bric-a-brac; barbecue, teas and Pimms, bouncy castle, welly wanging. Brass band and military wives choir. 1pm. Free. 01491 837823.

Family Fun Day in aid of Against Breast Cancer: Millets Farm Centre, Kingston Road, Frilford. Free entry in picnic area of overflow car park, 10am-4pm. Draw to win use of a new VW Cabriolet for a week. Football game, win signed Oxford United shirt and ball. Meet some of the players. Craft Shack with face painter, nail and glitter tattoo bar, garden games, inflatables and Robotscool. 01235 534211.

Flower Festival with Numbers theme: St Stephen's Church, Pound Lane, Clanfield. Plants and produce. Refreshments. 11.30am. Free. 01993 841294.

Great Rollright Big Bake and Food Fayre: Village Hall. Stalls, teas, barbecue, Pimms. Anyone can enter Big Bake, from cupcakes contest to men's scone challenge. Entry form at Jaffe & Neale or Wyatt's Plant Centre. In aid of Tearfund's No Child Taken campaign to protect from trafficking. Visit rollrightreview.webplus.net or call Brenda on 01608 738374.

Picnic in the Park: Hailey Village Park. Friends of Hailey Village Primary School. Bring picnic. Music, bouncy castle, fun for the family. 3pm. £5 per family.

Ramblers walk: Waterperry Gardens car park, Waterperry. 10½-mile walk via Great Milton and the Haseleys. Bring picnic. Tea at garden centre. 9.30am. 01844 339969.

Ramblers Walk: Playing Field, Killingworth Castle, Wootton by Woodstock. 10am. 10-mile circular walk via Steeple Barton. Pub stop. 01865 514082.

St Peter's Summer Fete: St Peter's Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot. Northbourne School choir, St Birinus, dance displays, barbecue run by Scouts. 11am. Free. 01235 812114.

Summer Festival and Fete: St Mary's Church, Church Street, Kidlington. Children's entertainer, toys, games, beer tent, teas, church tours, music, plants. 12.30pm. Free. 01865 375916.

Witney Horticultural Society Sweet Pea and Rose Show: Methodist Church, High Street. Categories include flower arranging, photography, baking, preserving and crafts. Coffee from 10am, ploughman's from 11.30am Viewing from noon. Prizes at 3.30pm. 50p entry. 01993 779749.

SUNDAY

All Saints' Church Summer Spectacular: Church Field, Lydalls Road, Didcot. Stalls, refreshments, games, face-painting, water stocks. 1.30pm. 50p. 01235 212575.

Cowley Road Carnival: Oxford. Noon. Free. 01865 270927.

Donkey Show and Fun Dog Show: Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Donkey show from 10am and dog show from 2pm. Free spectator entry. 10 dog classes, £2 per class. Flea market and collectors fair from 10am. Setting up for sellers, 8am. Pitches from £10 (tables supplied), booking recommended. Buyers 50p. Call 01491 833938 or see donkeyrescue.org.uk.

Gardens Open: Heyford Park, Brice Road. View residents' small gardens. Collect map and pay entry fee at Community Garden. All proceeds to Heyford Park Community Garden Project. 10am. £2. 01869 233932.

National Gardens Scheme: Copse Side, Lincombe Lane, Boars Hill. Recently designed 2.5-acre garden sloping to ponds and water gardens, linked by hidden boardwalk and woodland. Combined opening with Ridgeway. 2pm. Adult £5, child free.

National Gardens Scheme: Ridgeway, Lincombe Lane, Boars Hill. 0.75-acre garden on sandy soil with rare shrubs and plants. Intricate design with alpine beds. Wheelchair access. Teas. Combined opening with Copse Side. 2pm. Adult £5, child free.

National Gardens Scheme: The Grange, Berrick Road, Chalgrove. 10-acre plot with prairie, grasses inspired by Dutch style. Lake with bridges and island, brook, wildflower meadow, arboretum, orchard. Wheelchair access. Teas. 2pm. Adult £4, child free. 01865 400883.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

National Gardens Scheme: Four Thame gardens, various streets. Small cottage-style garden; colourful corner plot of beds, borders and containers; walled garden with raised beds, fruit trees, climbers and perennials; two neighbours combining gardens with water features, tropical plants, sculptures and spa. Wheelchair access. Dogs on leads. Plant sale. Teas. 2pm. Combined adult £4, child free.

National Gardens Scheme: Westwell Manor, Westwell, Burford. Manor house knot garden, potager, topiary, earth works, moonlight garden, auricular ladder, water garden. Plant sale. 2.30pm. Adult £5, child free.

Pond Dipping and Wild Art: Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Create creature to take home. 10am. £4 suggested donation. 01865 407792.

Walk with Second Lease: Car park, Woodford Way, Witney. Two walks: 6.25 miles from the Eynsham Toll Bridge to Osney Bridge, catch 9.40am bus from Witney Market Square. Bring a packed lunch. A 3.5-mile walk in Minster Lovell, Crawley. Meet at car park to leave at 9.30am. 01993 702716.

MONDAY

National Gardens Scheme: Home Farm, Middle Lane, Balscote. Low maintenance, flowering shrubs, mature trees and poetry in the garden by artist and writer Zizi Lagadec. Wheelchair access. Teas. 10am. Donation. 01295 738194.

TUESDAY

National Gardens Scheme: Home Farm, Balscote. See Monday.

Music

TODAY

Alvin Roy Trio: Evenlode Hotel, Old Witney Road, Eynsham. Jazz trio, swing/mainstream. 7pm. Free. 01865 882878.

Bach and Vivaldi: Strings and Organ with Daniel Hyde. Madgalen College Chapel, Oxford. Charting influence of Italian composers. artsfestivaloxford.org. 9.30pm. £10/£8/£2. 01865 305305.

Sibelius 150th Anniversary Concert: Madgalen College Chapel, Oxford. Most beloved solo songs and piano pieces. artsfestivaloxford.org. 7pm. £10/£8/£2. 01865 305305.

THURSDAY

Mozart's Così Fan Tutte from Garsington Opera: School field, Magdalen College School, Oxford. Free outdoor screening by the banks of the Cherwell. See artsfestivaloxford.org. 6pm. 01865 242191.

Sholto Kynoch piano recital: SJE Arts, St John the Evangelist Church, Iffley Road, Oxford. Artistic director of Oxford Lieder Festival performs Schubert's *Piano Sonata in A Major*; Brahms's *Seven Fantasies, Op 116*; Beethoven's *Six Bagatelles, Op 126*. Tickets from sje-oxford.org/events/tickets or Oxford Playhouse, 01865 305305. 7.30pm. £15, £10 (students £10, £5). 01865 613507.

FRIDAY

Summer Celebration of Music: Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester on Thames. The 100-strong Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra plays Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* on Friday. Saturday has Oxfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra, Oxfordshire Youth Wind Band and the Oxfordshire Schools Orchestra with American Independence Day and *Pomp and Circumstance* by Elgar. Tickets at oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford. 7pm. £8/£5 concessions. 01865 740000.

Doug & Dan: Berinsfield Social Club, Green Furlong. Covers. 9pm.

Gilbert and Sullivan: *Iolanthe*, Kennington Methodist Church, Upper Road, Oxford. Kennington and District United Church Choirs. Free. 7.30pm. Collection for Kennington Overseas Aid. 01865 361431.

Jazz in July: Rousham Park House and Gardens, Bicester. George Huxley's Jazzmen. Bring picnics, rugs, chairs for traditional jazz in aid of Age UK Oxfordshire. Tickets £15 and booked picnic hampers are £20 for 2 people. Pre-booked tickets only. 7pm. 0345 4501276.

Kismet: Ark T Centre, Crowell Road, Oxford. Folk favourites in support of their Crowd Funder Campaign. Tickets from Ark T or wegottickets.com/event/322849 7.45pm. £10 / £8 concession. 01865 396778.

Madrigals on the Water: School Field, Magdalen College School, Oxford. Concert of madrigals and folk songs performed from punts on Cherwell. See artsfestivaloxford.org. 7pm. £15/£12/£2. 01865 305305.

Phantasm: Magdalen College Chapel, Magdalen College, Oxford. Viol highlights from John Dowland's *Lachrimae*. See artsfestivaloxford.org. 9pm. £20/£15/£2. 01865 305305.

The Summits: The Angel Witney, Market Square, Witney. Covers. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238.

vOx Chamber Choir: Bach *B Minor Mass*, Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford. Choir with Musicians of the Dreaming Spires, conducted by David Crown. Tickets from wegottickets.com/vOxChamberChoir. 7.30pm. £15 (£5 students)

Saturday

Chris Wood – None The Wiser: Cornerstone, Station Road, Didcot. Songwriter weaving traditional with contemporary parables. 8pm. £15, £13.50 (concs). 01235 515144.

Community Concert with Manchoir: St Mary's Church, Church Way, Iffley. Iffley Music Society's concert features Manchoir, community choir for men. Work songs, blues, comic and contemporary. Confluence, musicians from the immigrant community, make a musical contribution, and classical musicians perform baroque trio sonatas. Picnic time at interval. Collection for Medical Aid for Palestinians. 6pm. £5 (children free). 01865 779663.

James Morgan: Royal Standard, London Road, Headington. Vocal guitarist. Free. 9pm. 01865 764591.

Kev G: Littlebury Hotel, Kings End, Bicester. Vocal guitarist with covers. Free. 9pm. 07941 416722.

Serious Two: Queens Head, Church Road, Horspath. 9pm. 01865 875567.

Sparsholt Church Concert 2015: Church Way, Sparsholt. Carducci Quartet with Haydn's *Joke Quartet Op.33 No. 2*; Shostakovich *Quartet No. 3*; & Mendelssohn *Op.80 in F Minor*. 7.30pm. Tickets £15 & £20. 01235 751540.

Steve Ashall: Red Lion, Oxford Road, Marston. Covers. Free. 9pm.

SUNDAY

Baroque Music by Candlelight: *Zephyr's Dance*, Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford. Charivari Agréable perform Barsanti, Hotteterre, Loeillet, Handel, Telemann & Vivaldi. 8pm. £16, £15 (OAP), £10 (full-time students). 01865 305305.

Mudslide Morris: Joe Perks, St Clement's Street, Oxford. Hip-shaking bottleneck blues and boogie. 8pm. Free. 01865 434753.

Theatre

TODAY

Beauty & the Beast (Junior): Unicorn Theatre, Thames Street, Abingdon. South Oxfordshire Youth Performing Arts, 7.30pm. Tickets on 01865 740000 or on night. 7.30pm. £8 adults / £5 concs.

Technical Theatre Workshop: Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road, Oxford. Introduction to what goes on behind the scenes with technicians. Ages 12-18. See artsfestivaloxford.org. 5.30pm. £2. 01865 305305.

TODAY-THURS

The Wind in the Willows: Big School, Magdalen College School, Oxford. MCS Junior School's musical adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's classic. See artsfestivaloxford.org. 5pm. £6/£4/£2. 01865 305305.

TODAY-SATURDAY, MONDAY-TUESDAY

Twelfth Night: Wadham College Gardens, Parks Road, Oxford. Nick Lloyd Webber revisits his score under direction of Nick Green. An OSC production with its own gypsy folk band. 7.30pm. £13-£23. 01865 305305.

THURSDAY

Alice in Wonderland: Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street. New production. See artsfestivaloxford.org. 7pm. £17/£13. 01865 305305.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY

A Night at the Musicals: North Oxfordshire Academy, Drayton Road, Banbury. Susan Taylor Dancing Academy. Pupils take trip to West End and Broadway. Friday, 7pm. Tickets: Showstopper, Parsons Street, £9, concs £6. 7pm (Saturday also 2pm).

SATURDAY

Alice in Wonderland: Oxford Playhouse. See above for details. 4pm.

MONDAY-TUESDAY

Romeo and Juliet: Oxford Castle Courtyard, New Road. Tomahawk Theatre. 7.30pm. £15 and £13.

Stick Man: Beacon Wantage, Port Way. Adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's children's book with puppetry, songs and funky moves. Monday, 1.30pm, 4.30pm. Tuesday 7.30pm. Matinees £8 each or £30 family ticket. Evening £15, £13. 01235 763456.

TUESDAY

A Midsummer Night's Dream: Old Swan & Minster Mill, Old Minster, Minster Lovell. HandleBards. Gates open 6pm, play 7.30pm. Pimms and hog roast. £12, £8 concs, £4 child. thehandlebards.eventbrite.co.uk. 6pm. 01993 774441.

Comedy

TODAY

The Oxford Imps: MCS Festival Marquee, Magdalen College School, Oxford. Improvised comedy. artsfestivaloxford.org. 4pm. £6.

THURSDAY

The Funniest Number: Big School, Magdalen College School, Oxford. Owen Elton with musical satire. artsfestivaloxford.org. 4pm. £6.

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Arnie's still coming back to revisit his former triumphs

TERMINATOR GENISYS (12A)
ARNOLD Schwarzenegger is true to his word and returns as the mechanised killing machine in this reboot of the *Terminator* franchise, directed by Alan Taylor, which promises to tell the same origin story from a fresh perspective.

Released in 1984, James Cameron's groundbreaking sci-fi thriller *The Terminator* tapped into concerns about nuclear warfare to explore a dystopian future in which machines have rebelled against mankind and rendered our species almost obsolete.

This film follows a similarly bleak narrative. In the aftermath of judgment day, when machines rebelled against their human creators, the last vestiges of mankind face complete extinction.

Rebel leader John Connor (Jason Clarke) hopes to give humanity a chance by sending friend Kyle Reese (Jai Courtney) back in time to 1986, to protect his mother Sarah (Emilia Clarke) from a shape-shifting Terminator (Byung-hun Lee).

When Kyle catches up with Sarah, he discovers he is in an altered timeline in which the Connor matriarch is a well-honed fighting machine, who already has an ageing T-800 model Terminator (Schwarzenegger).

MAGIC MIKE XXL (15)
LOOSELY inspired by lead actor Channing Tatum's experiences as a stripper, *Magic Mike* was a cautionary tale of ambition and greed set in a Tampa Bay male nude revue bar, punctuated by high-energy crotch-thrusting dance solos.

Made for $7 million , Steven Soderbergh's film turned a tidy profit, sowing the seeds for this well-oiled sequel.

Soderbergh is replaced by Gregory Jacob, but most of the main cast are back in skimpy underwear, except Matthew McConaughey and Alex Pettyfer.

The tale unfolds three years after events of the first film. Mike (Tatum) and fellow dancers Ken, Richie, Tarzan and Tito have been at the top of their pelvis-thrusting game for too long and the end is nigh.

The gang decides to bow out in style with a final performance. En route to this emotional farewell, they make a detour to visit Mike's old stomping ground: the Domina private club run by sassy businesswoman Rome (Jada Pinkett Smith).

The club's headliners put on a great show and convince the gang they need to learn some new moves.

AMY (15)
WITH her distinctive beehive, thick eyeliner and deep, soulful vocals, Amy Winehouse became an icon.

Her debut album Frank left critics and music fans in a daze but it was her follow-up, *Back To Black*, that rewrote the record books, earning Winehouse five Grammy awards including Record Of The Year and Song Of The Year, plus three Ivor Novello awards for her songwriting and a BRIT award as Best British Female. But Winehouse died from alcohol poisoning, aged 27.

Asif Kapadia's documentary charts her life and times, incorporating contributions from friends and family, plus people who worked with her and were touched by her fragility and genius.

The film details battles with drug and alcohol addiction, as well as her mental health issues, and pieces together events leading up to her death, posing difficult questions about the culpability of the media and some of her inner circle in her tragic downfall.

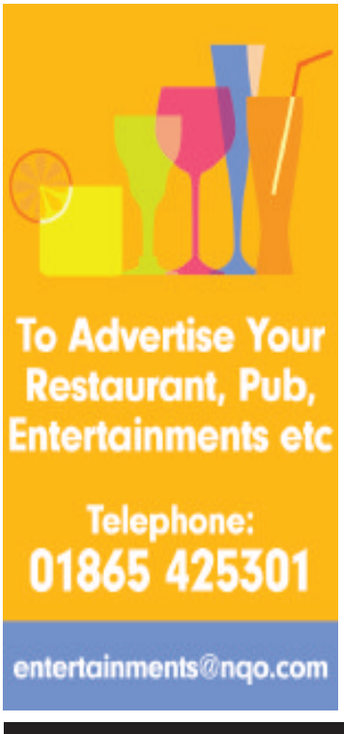
Game of Thrones **star Emilia Clarke takes over as Sarah Connor in a reboot of the Terminator franchise, *Terminator Genisys*, while Arnold Schwarzenegger revisits one of his most iconic roles as the Terminator machine who is sent from the future to protect the mother of a man who will one day be the hero for the next generation of humankind. Jai Courtney plays newcomer Kyle Reese**

Cake Bookworm

***A Year Of Marvellous Ways* by Sarah Winman is published in hardback by Tinder Press, priced £16.99 (ebook £3.99)**
THIS follow-up to Sarah Winman's phenomenally successful debut, *When God Was A Rabbit*, lives up to expectations.
In 1947 Cornwall, Marvellous (an 89-year-old woman) is waiting; "not for death, as you might assume", but for something she senses is coming. This is the first hint of the magical realism that pervades the novel. We later hear of her mermaid mother, and Peace, who bakes loaves in which you can taste her moods. However, there is a real grounding in reality; the stories are touching, but the twist lent by these quirks lends a joyful, fairytale element. When the 'something' Marvellous has been waiting for arrives, it is in the form of a soldier returning from war to deliver a crucial letter, who finds and loses his love. In him, Marvellous recognises a broken young man, so sets out to heal him using stories, telling the tales of the three loves of her life in a poetic and deeply moving way. At times, the tale is disorientating in the way it's told. No speech marks, and a somewhat experimental form can take some getting used to. That aside, this is a lavish and clever read which will stand the test of time.

***Grey* by EL James is published in paperback by Arrow Books, priced £7.99 (ebook £3.66)**
WHEN *Fifty Shades Of Grey* came out, I chose not to review it. And then it exploded and everyone read it. What started as fan fiction has snowballed into a marketing phenomenon and the latest instalment arrives with EL James telling her original tale from Christian Grey's viewpoint. She says fans begged her to write it, but she's short-changed them with 557 pages of the same dialogue interspersed with scant new titbits. What we do learn is flashbacks to being adopted as a scarred and mute child. In his ego-inflated mind, he pits himself against literary heroes Darcy, Rochester and Angel Clare. It's creepy.

***When Music Got Free: What Happens When An Entire Generation Commits The Same Crime?* by Stephen Witt is published in hardback by Bodley Head, priced £20 (ebook £9.49)**
WITT is a downloading addict, who claims he hasn't paid for music since the turn of the millennium. This is his account of how the invention of the mp3 changed the way we consume music. Beginning with Karlheinz Brandenburg - who dedicated years to perfecting the format, it explores the motivations of those involved in the moral morass of illegal filesharing with aplomb. Witt has a knack for eking out illuminating human foibles.



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Banbury's Karl Penhale took 6-10 in the victory over Reading

Penhale the hero for Banbury aces

The seamer inspires hosts to seal home win over Reading

CRICKET – HCPL

KARL Penhale produced a devastating spell of 6-10 as Banbury shot out Reading for just 40 in a one-sided Division 1 clash at White Post Road on Saturday.

The seamer, who is playing for Northants 2nd XI this season, proved unplayable to set up an eight-wicket win in a match that ended just after lunch.

It was Ashley Blanchard who made the breakthrough, trapping Andrew Rishton lbw for three.

Fellow opener Curran Gaur's 15-ball duck was ended by a Jimmy Phillips catch off Penhale, while Tom Fray's nought took 13 balls before he was bowled by Blanchard.

The procession continued with Penhale winning lbw shouts against Sukhmeet Khang and Bobby Zafar.

Only Jack Beaven reached double figures, as Reading lunched on 40-9.

Penhale completed the destruction with the first ball after the resumption, trapping David Harley for the fourth duck of the innings, for final figures of 11-5-10-6.

It's the second lowest score in Division 1 history.

When Banbury replied, Hugo Darby was run out for four and Lloyd Sabin fell for eight.

But former Australian Test keeper Tim Paine ensured the runs were knocked off in just 6.1 overs with 25 not out from 14 balls.

The result lifts Banbury to third in the table, but 50 points behind leaders Henley.

Banbury 25 pts, Reading 2

LATEST TABLE

SERIOUS CRICKET HOME COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	A	B	Pts
Henley	8	8	0	0	0	0	175
H Wycombe	8	5	1	1	1	22	136
Banbury	**8**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**11**	**125**
Slough	8	4	1	2	1	11	115
Reading	8	3	1	4	0	23	86
Burnham	8	2	1	5	0	35	83
Horspath	8	2	2	3	1	28	80
Tring Park	8	2	1	4	1	29	78
Harefield	8	1	0	6	1	33	59
Oxford	8	0	0	6	2	31	43

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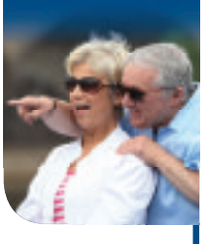

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

The planet Venus forces you to raise your standards in love and you spend many of your days trying to work out where you went wrong in the last year with personal choices. You didn't go wrong Aries, it's just that others let you down. From Thursday you start to find more self confidence and life and love take on a more interesting glow and feeling. Ring now for a look at the bigger picture.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

An excess of energy can see you getting up to all sorts of mischief this week and it will be up to you to know where you should draw the line. Remember what you set out to achieve, not what others tried to talk you into along the way. You're a clever sign, so please don't underestimate yourself. Good news comes from far away by Friday. Ring now for a long term view on relationships.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

You think your close ones don't understand you, but you're wrong. You see my friend, over the last few days your loved ones have probably learned more about you than they have in the last five years. You're finally letting down your defences and you're about to find out that you can and should work as a team to shape your life the way you want it to be. Ring now for inspiration.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

You've been hearing one thing but interpreting it as another and the sooner you go to the source to ask those all important questions, the happier you will be Cancer. Time spent working out travel plans can save you both time and money. Look out for a new face on the social scene who could well be the love match you've been waiting for. Ring now for a full reading.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

You're such an artistic sign Leo, but you all too often underestimate yourself. Try to raise the bar and aim higher this week and you'll soon learn that you actually have friends and admirers in very high places. News on your career gives you reason to want to work and train harder, and rightly so. Your dreams are within your reach at last. Ring now to better understand the younger generation.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You've been paying so much attention to idle gossip and what others are doing with their lives that you have failed to notice the array of opportunities appearing in your own life Virgo. Others are impressed by your communication skills and you should be too. Time spent planning travel gives you reason to feel really settled and optimistic. Ring now for more detail.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You finally start to see other's points of view in arguments, which this time last month had you over a barrel. You've had to do a lot of growing up in the last few months but I can see that you've come out of recent experiences a better and stronger sign my friend. New opportunities in work link to a social contact you made in the last fortnight. Ring now to hear why I'm so excited for you.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

There are always two sides to every story, but this week there seem to be five or six Scorpio. Try not to judge others by what you've been told, but only by what you've seen with your own eyes. All will become clear by Thursday, so until then try to bide your time and make what could be a confusing week into one you can and should control. Ring now to hear why you can afford to ask for more.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You've been a little lost over the last few days, haven't you my friend? From Monday onwards you start to feel ready to get on with what needs to be done and you no longer worry about how things look from the outside. Your element of fire helps you to heal a rift in the family circle which was not previously your problem, but seems to have become so. Ring now to make sense of recent misdemeanours.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You're asking others for advice on questions and decisions which only apply to you Capricorn. Try to think about your long term future and not just the nest few weeks. Remember too that you are the one who has to live your life, not those around you, so act on your own feelings and instincts. Wear yellow for luck in family confrontations. Ring now for a full reading on your future.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You're in the mood for naughty behaviour and so, if someone tells you not to do something, it's going to be more than a little appealing for you to do it out of spite. News from far away raises a smile and gives you reason to feel glad you are out of a certain circle or crowd in your life. Geminis link to a better career path. Ring now to find out how Saturn gives you class in business.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

Slow down and try to take in the view in life rather than just making decisions based on how they look to other people. You have learnt far too much since the beginning of the year to start making choices out of spite my friend. Mars helps you make the changes you've longed for in the home from Friday, but remember what others asked for too. Ring now so I can tell you your future.

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1 ARTICLES FOR SALE
2 PETS
3 SERVICES
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6 HOLIDAYS
7 EDUCATION
8 PUBLIC NOTICES
9 RECRUITMENT
10 MOTORS
11 PROPERTY

1 ARTICLES FOR SALE

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3 SERVICES

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4 BUSINESS

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5 ENTERTAINMENTS

Entertainments

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Entertainments

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8 PUBLIC NOTICES

Announcements - Public Notices

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

THE SECRETARY OF STATE hereby gives notice of an Order made under Section 247 of the above Act entitled "The Stopping up of Highway (South East) (No. 22) Order 2015" authorising the stopping up of a southern part-width of Birds Lane, adjoining Bankside Cottage, at Epwell in the District of Cherwell. This is to enable development as permitted by Cherwell District Council under reference 15/00040/F.

COPIES OF THE ORDER MAY BE OBTAINED, free of charge, from the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk (quoting NATTRAN/SE/S247/1841) and may be inspected during normal opening hours at Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA.

ANY PERSON aggrieved by or desiring to question the validity of or any provision within the Order, on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the above Act or that any requirement or regulation made has not been complied with, may, within 6 weeks of 02 July 2015 apply to the High Court for the suspension or quashing of the Order or of any provision included.

D Candlish, Department for Transport

To advertise your public notice call the team on 01865 425558 reception@nqo.com

Call our team to advertise your unwanted items.
CLASSIFIEDS
01865 420420

9 RECRUITMENT

Marketing and Promotional Opportunity

A vacancy has arisen for a Territory Manager within our Newspaper Sales Department to assist in the sales and promotions of our well known and respected community focused newspapers including the Oxford Mail and The Oxford Times.

The ideal candidate will be outgoing, self motivated and customer focused.

Working 37.5 hours Monday to Friday, you will be responsible for managing the sales of those titles in a specified geographical area. Sales are achieved in retail outlets by forging strong working relationships with Store Managers and decision makers, increasing brand awareness, establishing key product positioning and carrying out in store promotional activity.

You will also be responsible for the recruitment and management of home delivery agents within your territory to ensure a high level of customer service is achieved.

The successful candidate will require excellent communication skills, have an organised approach and be logical in your thinking. You will be confident in using your own initiative and contribute to team targets. Good knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential, including Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

Salary - £15,000
basic plus bonus structure, company car and mobile phone.
Staff Restaurant • 6.6 weeks annual leave (including bank holidays)
Workplace Pension Scheme

Applicants should send their CV and covering letter to **Eddie Denton,** Newspaper Sales Manager, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ or email: **edenton@nqo.com**

Oxford Mail The Oxford Times

Newsquest Oxfordshire is currently recruiting for a position of

MARKETING ANALYST

Salary circa £25k

Based in our Oxford office, we require an Marketing Analyst to assist the commercial team. The role, which is a non selling role, would encompass business analysis including revenue performance and forecasting, market share and trends, agency, client and category analysis, competitive research, pricing, management reporting and in depth market knowledge analysis including, territory analysis and resource mapping.

An ability to multitask, prioritise workflow, communicate effectively as well as working with a team are essential skills required for this position.

In return we will offer the successful candidates, a competitive salary, and 6.6 weeks annual leave.

To apply, send your CV to:

Jackie.parker@oxfordshire.newsquest.co.uk

Newsquest (Oxfordshire) Ltd is an equal opportunities employer and invites applications from all members of the community.
We operate a no smoking policy.
Newsquest operates a Workplace group personal pension plan, in compliance with the employer pension duties under the Pensions Act 2008.

Oxford Mail
The Oxford Times
HERALD Witney Gazette Bicester Advertiser CAKE NEWSQUEST

9 RECRUITMENT

FANTASTIC CAREERS IN SALES

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GOOD BASIC + MONTHLY BONUS

• Enthusiasm • Tenacity • Ambition • Personal Drive • Fun

We have an excellent opportunity for professional people, with sales experience, an excellent telephone manner, a good understanding of the internet and a strong desire to succeed.

We offer the right candidates: Excellent basic salary plus high bonus potential • Comprehensive ongoing training • Friendly and supportive working environment • Career development plan

Successful applicants will be working within a friendly, professional team within our busy call centre. The sales role involves advising prospective and existing clients on how our wide portfolio of products both in print and online, can help them reach their target markets.

You will need to be hardworking and determined to succeed in order to achieve your targets by constantly delivering a high standard of creativity and service. You will have a strong work ethic and be organised in order to meet the standards and deadlines of a busy advertising department.

Ready to meet the challenge?

If you believe you have what it takes to be part of our successful team please forward your CV to brand@nqo.com

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DIRECT DELIVERY CO-ORDINATOR

Part time 20 hours per week Monday to Friday

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You will be responsible for managing the Direct Delivery Agents in a specified geographical area. Responsibilities include managing and recruiting Agents, dealing with customer complaints and ensuring all customers receive a high level of Customer Service.

ARE YOU: OUTGOING? SELF MOTIVATED? CUSTOMER FOCUSED?

- *Good knowledge of Microsoft Office is desirable, including Word and Excel.*
- *Full UK driving license*

THE PACKAGE:

- Staff Restaurant
- Free car parking
- 6.6 weeks annual holiday including Bank Holidays (Pro rata)
- Newsquest operates a workplace group personal pension plan, in compliance with the employer pension duties under the Pensions Act 2008.

Oxford Mail
The Oxford Times

Applicants should send their CV and covering letter to
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Newspaper Sales Manager,
Osney Mead,
Oxford, OX2 0EJ or
email: edenton@nqo.com

FULL TIME HOUSE-KEEPER

Flexible, reliable house-keeper required within a small team. Duties include general housekeeping to a high standard & occasional help with laundry. Please submit up to date CV along with references to: butlers@tusmore.co.uk or post to: Paul Steer/Shadi Hala Tusmore Park, Bicester, OX27 7SP

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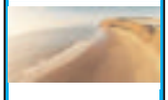
10 MOTORS

Caravans & Motorhomes Trade

ESCAPE TO THE COAST



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Simply type OXADS PLUS AD followed by a space then the text for your advert (max 150 characters). Send the text message to 80360. Your order usually takes a few seconds dependant on network congestion. Any delays should be checked by your service provider. We guarantee your adverts will appear for 3 nights and within 3 days of receiving the text. As well as placing your order you will receive a message on receipt of your advert which will be charged at £1.50 + your network operators charge for the text.

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CakeMotoring

banburycake.co.uk/cars

In Brief

- **Vauxhall has announced pricing information for its all-new Astra. The medium-size family car is due in showrooms this October, with prices starting at £15,295 on the road. The new model, built at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant, is claimed to be up to £2,200 less expensive than the outgoing model, thanks to a simplified range of Design, Tech Line, Energy, SRi and Elite, with Nav versions of the SRi and Elite trims also available. Highlights include a 1.0-litre three-cylinder turbo ecoFLEX from £15,995. With an Easytronic five-speed automatic transmission, it achieves 96g/km CO2 emissions. A 1.6-litre, 200 horsepower SRi model is from £20,435.**
- **High-tech systems to monitor a driver's stress, fatigue and concentration are being tested by Jaguar Land Rover (JLR). The company wants to see if a car can read brainwaves that indicate daydreaming or sleepiness. JLR is also developing a seat to analyses heart rate and breathing, to indicate health and stress levels. The brainwave reading method is already used by US space agency NASA and the American bobsleigh team.**

Fabulous Fabia offers lots of kit

Auto facts

Model: Skoda Fabia SE 1.0 MPi
Price: £12,760
Insurance group: 3E
Fuel consumption (Combined): 58.9mpg
Top speed: 107mph
Length: 399.2cm/157.1in
Width: 173.2cm/68.2in
Luggage capacity: 11.6 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 9.9 gallons/45 litres
CO2 emissions: 108g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

By David Duffy
david.duffy@nqo.com

BUILDING a good car is simply no longer good enough for car makers who want to sell superminis.

Improvements in build quality, safety, comfort and style have raised the level of expectation among buyers so high that even the smallest car must perform brilliantly.

No surprise then that the title of What Car? Car of the Year 2015 was bestowed on the new Skoda Fabia, following the first-generation Fabia, which won the same award 15 years ago.

That's a measure of the progress made by the Czech car maker, which started its life in the 19th century as a maker of high-quality, exclusive cars, only to later suffer years of ridicule at the hands of comedian Jasper Carrott in the 1980s .

Skoda's renaissance began after its takeover by the Volkswagen Group in 1991. The continual improvements have led to solid year-on-year sales growth.

Key to that overall success is the Fabia leading to more than 3.5m sales worldwide since it went on sale in 2000.

The third-generation car, available as a five-door hatch and estate with six engine options priced from £10,600, is both larger and stronger than its best-selling predecessor, yet it tips the scales at up to 65kg less. This cut in weight and the introduction of cleaner engines have led to a reduction in fuel consumption.

The model tested here, the 1.0-litre 75PS SE, is expected to be the best-selling model, and although it sits in the middle of the three-trim range, the specification is impressive. All new Fabia models are fitted with six airbags as standard – driver, passenger, side and curtain – along with Bluetooth, a DAB radio, and USB and 3.5mm auxiliary sockets.

SE specification adds air conditioning, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors and an emergency braking system to prevent low-speed bumps in city traffic.

That is an impressive parcel of equipment, but it is the combination of high build quality, a smooth, quiet ride and easy-to-manage on-road manners that make the Fabia such a winning package.

The joke is firmly on other car manufacturers as Skoda builds cars with the prestige of the models made over 100 years ago.

The Skoda Fabia has come a long way since it was the butt of jokes

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oxfordmail.co.uk/advertise

Heritage Motor Centre

Up to 750 old Fords will star at rally

UP TO 750 old Fords will go on display at the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon at the 7th Old Ford Rally.

The show, on Sunday July 19, is the biggest rally of old Fords in the UK.

Fords including commercials, tractors and vehicles with a Ford engine, built up to 1991, will be on display exhibiting the range of vehicles produced by one of the world's biggest manufacturers.

The show will mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War with a display of more than 25 military Fords, courtesy of North Oxon and Cotswolds Military Vehicle Trust.

Exhibitors and visitors are encouraged to attend wearing 1940s costumes.

Visitors will see vehicles from Model Ts to the cars of the post-war austerity years plus agricultural vehicles, Thames and Ford commercial and military vehicles and the post-war Zephyrs, Zodiacs and Granadas plus the Mk1 and Mk2 family Cortinas and Ford Anglia's and Escorts.

There will also be the early 1960s Ford Classic Capri and the later 1970s and 80s Ford Capri.

The show will host a small club entry of pre-1990 Ford Transits and there will be a Ford autojumble and an arena with commentary.

Tom Caren of the Heritage Motor Centre said: "Therally is a real enthusiasts' show and incredibly popular among Ford fans. It's a great day out for anyone interested in old vehicles even if they're not Ford enthusiasts."

Tickets cost £12 on the day for adults, £8 for children and £34 for a family. Discounted tickets are available in advance online. Camping is available on Saturday, July 18. Price per pitch, tent or caravan, is £25 advance and £35 on the day.

For event details and ticket prices visit www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk. Gift aid season tickets and Tesco vouchers are valid on day.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 01295 256111

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VAUXHALL

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*Model shown VIVA SE 1.0i (75PS) £7,995 with optional metallic paint £545. Total OTR cost £8,540. Offers available on orders or registrations between 19 June and 7 October 2015. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Offer applies to pre model year 2016 vehicles only. See Retailer for further details. Prices and specifications correct at time of going to press.

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2005	05	**CITROEN VTR 1.6** 5 door hatchback. Black. PAS.Electric windows. Central locking. Radio/CD. Aircon. Local car. Good condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear. £2,250
2003	53	**RENAULT KANGOO 1.2** Authentique WHEEL CHAIR CONVERSION. Silver. Local vehicle. Approximately only 65000 recorded miles. Very good condition throughout. PAS. Electric windows. Central locking. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear. £2,295
2004	04	**PEUGEOT 206SE 1.4cc.** Silver. 5 door hatchback. Local car. Full service history, approximately 72000 recorded miles. Aircon. Electric windows. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Very nice condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear. £1,995
2001	51	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 AUTOMATIC.** 5 door. Silver. Local car. Central locking. Electric windows. PAS. Radio/CD. Very tidy for it's year. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear. £1,550
2004	04	**FIAT PANDA 1.2 ELEGANZA.** 5 doors. Blue. Great little car. Central locking. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Radio/CD. Very roomy and economical small hatchback. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear. £1,450
2003	03	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 PETROL ELEGANCE. 7 SEATER.** Silver, MOT until March 2016. £1,395
2001	51	**NISSAN MICRA 1.0 VIBE. 5 doors.** Metallic Blue. PAS. Radio/CD. Local car. Very tidy throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear. £1,050
1997	P	**TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 ST COUPE**, Turquoise Blue, Exceptional Condition, PAS, Alloys, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Sun Roof, Local Car, HPI Clear £995

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FANTASTIC DAY TRIPS & EXCURSIONS - July / August 2015

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, LONDON
This award winning museum tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain
Saturday 11th July **£27.50 (CE)**

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
Traditional seaside, seven miles of seafront, town, shore & lots more
Sunday 12th July
Adult £29.00 Child/OAP £27.00

TRENTHAM GARDENS & MONKEY FOREST, STAFFORDSHIRE
Explore the splendour of the Italian garden, shopping village & magnificent Monkey Forest
Sunday 12th July **Adult £39.50 Child/OAP £34.00** (CE)

WINDSOR
Beautiful, unique and historic destination
Saturday 18th July
Adult £24.00 Child/OAP £22.00 (C)

GREENWICH - WORLD HERITAGE SITE
Home of the National Maritime Museum, Royal Observatory & Queens House, with a chance to maybe visit the Cutty Sark
Sunday 19th July
Only £25.00 (C)

WESTON-SUPER-MARE
Situated on the Bristol Channel - a traditional resort with a level promenade
Sunday 26th July **Adult £29.00 Child/OAP £27.00 (C)**

BOURNEMOUTH
One of the south coasts most popular seaside resorts with award winning gardens
Sunday 26th July
Adult £29.00 Child/OAP £27.00 (C)

WEYMOUTH
Award winning beach with picturesque harbour and numerous attractions
Sunday 2nd August
Adult £30.00
Child/OAP £28.00 (C)

OXFORD TO ABINGDON
Thames cruise - relax and enjoy the scenery - includes free time in Oxford
Tuesday 4th August
Adult £29.50
Child/OAP £27.50 (CC)

BRIGHTON
Stylish seaside resort with Royal Pavilion
Sunday 9th August
Adult £29.00
Child/OAP £27.00 (C)

SEASIDE & STEAM
We board the charming West Somerset railway for a 20 mile ride - free time in Minehead
Sunday 16th August
Adult £39.50
Child £33.50 (CT)

MARGATE
Timeless English seaside resort on the Kent coast
Sunday 16th August
Adult £30.00
Child/OAP £28.00 (C)

BOURNEMOUTH AIR FESTIVAL
One of the best air display spectacles in the country
Sunday 23rd August
Adult £29.00
Child/OAP £27.00 (C)

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT (INCLUSIVE OF AUDIO TOUR)
& 2 course carvery lunch at the 4* Strand Palace Hotel
Wednesday 26th August
Only £54.50 (CEL)

CAMDEN MARKET, LONDON
London's most popular street market area
Sunday 30th August
£24.50 (C)

SUPERB THEATRE SHOWS

LET IT BE
at the Garrick Theatre

Relive The Beatles' meteoric rise from their humble beginnings in Liverpool's Cavern Club, through the heights of Beatlemania, to their later studio masterpieces, with live performances of early tracks including Twist and Shout, She Loves You and Drive My Car, as well as global mega-hits Yesterday, Hey Jude, Come Together and, of course, Let It Be. Travel back to the magical Sixties when all you needed was love, and a little help from your friends!

Wednesday 5th August 2015, **Only £54.50**

SUNNY AFTERNOON
at the Harold Pinter Theatre

Sunny Afternoon is the story of The Kinks' rise from life on a dead end street to living the pop star dream of fame, fortune and glory. It's a musical like no other, offering a real glimpse inside one of Britain's greatest bands, on a journey through the euphoric highs and agonising lows of pop success.

Wednesday 5th August 2015, **Only £54.50**

DISNEY ON ICE - WORLDS OF ENCHANTMENT
INCLUDING DISNEY'S FROZEN!

Enter the dazzling world of Disney magic, live on ice! Rev up for non-stop fun with four of your favourite Disney stories.

Sunday 25th October 2015 (matinee)
Barclaycard Arena (NIA) Birmingham
Adult £52.50 Child/OAP £49.50
Early Bird Deposit : £15 per person secures your seat

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL
at the Shaftesbury Theatre

THE SONGS - THE SOUND – THE STORY
Featuring an eighteen piece orchestra playing 50 motown tracks!
Motown the Musical is a musical sensation with real soul!!

Thursday 10th March 2016

Only £64.50

New! ELF THE MUSICAL
at the Dominion Theatre, London

ELF is the hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy's enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

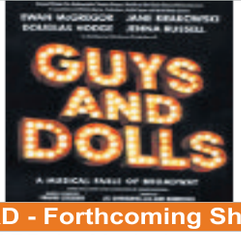
Starring the winner of ITV's Superstar Ben Forster as Buddy the Elf and Girls Aloud's Kimberley Walsh as Jovie

Wednesday 2nd December 2015

Only £64.50

GUYS & DOLLS
New!

At the Savoy Theatre (Matinee) *inc. 2 Course Carvery at the Savoy Palace Hotel*



Classic Broadway Musical, probably the most perfect musical comedy ever written.

(Matinee Showing)

Also includes a 2 Course Carvery Lunch at the Strand Palace Hotel, London, near the Savoy Theatre.

Tuesday 8th March 2016

Only £69.50

NEW THEATRE OXFORD - Forthcoming Shows

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
£57.50
Inspired by the political and personal struggles between Judas Iscariot and Jesus Christ, this spectacular musical follows the last week of Jesus' life, beginning with the preparations for his arrival in Jerusalem and ending with his crucifixion.
Monday 28th September 2015

THE BODYGUARD the Musical
£57.50
Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge – what they don't expect is to fall in love.
Tuesday 10th November 2015

ANNIE THE MUSICAL
£54.50
Set in 1930's New York during the great depression, brave young Annie is forced to live a life of misery and torment at Miss Hannigan's orphanage! With its award winning book and score , this stunning new production includes the unforgettable song's – It's the Hard knock Life – Easy Street – I don't need anythingBut you – and tomorrow!
Tuesday 15th December 2015

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